

REMARKS

Applicant has preliminarily amended the claims to bring the claims into conformance with the amendments made under Article 19 and/or 34 during the PCT application. As Applicant is not aware of any prior art which would anticipate or would render obvious the claimed invention, early allowance is respectfully requested.

A version of any amended claims, on separate pages from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims (underlining or bracketing) is also provided herewith in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

A clean version (no underlining and bracketing) of the entire set of pending claims, on separate pages from the amendment, is also provided herewith as detailed in 37 C.F.R.

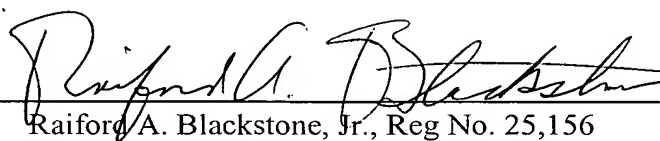
1.121(c)(3).

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS IN
CONFORMANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

1. (Once Amended) A cook top including at least one heating means beneath [status indicator for a heating region on] a substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass [cook top] surface with an opaque layer on sections of the underside thereof and a status indicator, said status indicator comprising:

indication means positioned directly underneath said [cook top] surface proximate to said heating [region] means wherein [a portion of] said opaque layer [has been removed thereby] is not present directly above said indication means, allowing said indication means to be visible directly above said cook top, and control means [which determines] configured to determine the [surface] temperature of said [cook top] surface above said heating [region] means and [energises] energise said indication means when said surface [of said cook top reaches] above said heating means is above a predetermined temperature and de-energises said indication means when said surface [of said cook top falls] above said heat means is below said predetermined temperature.

2. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to claim 1 wherein said control means comprises an electric circuit fed from a transformer less supply.

3. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the colour emitted by said indication means is dependent on whether said heating region is energised.

4. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said indication means is [a] at least one light emitting diode.

5. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said control means includes heat sensing means positioned in close proximity [of] to said heating [region] means, the electrical characteristics of which are temperature dependent.

6. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to claim 5 wherein said heat sensing means is a bimetallic switch.

7. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to claim 5 wherein said heating sensing means is a thermistor.

8. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to claim 5 wherein said heating sensing means is a positive temperature coefficient paste coated on the underside of said [cook top] surface or said opaque layer.

9. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said predetermined temperature is the maximum temperature for which human skin can safely be exposed to.

10. (Once Amended) A [status indicator] cook top according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said predetermined temperature is 50°C.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A cooktop including at least one heating means disposed beneath a substantially colourless and transparent ceramic glass, surface with an opaque layer on sections of the underside thereof and a status indicator, said status indicator comprising:
indication means positioned directly underneath said surface proximate to said heating means wherein said opaque layer is not present directly above said indication means, allowing said indication means to be visible directly above said cook top, and
control means configured to determine the temperature of said surface above said heating means and energise said indication means when said surface above said heating means is above a predetermined temperature and de-energise said indication means when said surface above said heating means is below said predetermined temperature.
2. A cooktop according to claim 1 wherein said control means comprises an electric circuit fed from a transformer less supply.
3. A cooktop according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the colour emitted by said indication means is dependent on whether said heating means is energised.
4. A cooktop according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said indication means is at least one light emitting diode.
5. A cooktop according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said control means includes heat sensing means positioned in close proximity to said heating means, the electrical characteristics of which are temperature dependent.
6. A cooktop according to claim 5 wherein said heat sensing means is a bimetallic switch.
7. A cooktop according to claim 5 wherein said heating sensing means is a thermistor.
8. A cooktop according to claim 5 wherein said heating sensing means is a positive temperature coefficient paste coated on the underside of said surface or said opaque layer.
9. A cooktop according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said predetermined temperature is the maximum temperature for which human skin can safely be exposed to.

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10. A cooktop according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said predetermined temperature is 50°C.

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